1	DISTRICT COURT OF GUAMY
2	JUN 16 2004
3	MARY L. M. MORAN CLERK OF COURT
4	(169)
5	IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF GUAM
6	TERRITORY OF GUAM
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9	ALAN SADHWANI, LAJU ) COURT OF APPEALS SADHWANI, and K. SADHWANI'S ) CASE NO. 04-
10	INC., a Guam Corporation, )  Plaintiffs, )
11	vs. (CASE NO. CV03-00036)
12	HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI ) BANKING CORPORATION, LTD., a )
13	foreign corporation, BID., a )  JOHN DOE I through JOHN DOE X, )
14	Defendants.
15	)
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17	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
18	BEFORE
19	THE HONORABLE JOAQUIN V.E. MANIBUSAN, JR.
20	Magistrate Judge
21	
22	MOTIONS HEARING
23	THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2004
24	IHURSDAI, JUNE 3, 2004
25	ORIGINAL

1	APPEARANCES:
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3	FOR THE PLAINTIFFS:
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8	FOR DEFENDANT HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORTATION LIMITED:
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HAGATNA, GUAM; THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2004; 10:08 A.M.

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THE CLERK: Civil case 03-00036, Alan Sadhwani, et al., versus HongKong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Limited, et al., hearing on the following motions:

denying motion to stay all depositions pending determination of its motion to strike first amended complaint in whole or in part; or in the alternative, motion to dismiss the third and sixth causes of action, and for sanctions; HSBC's motion to vacate scheduling order and continue discovery and trial date; and plaintiff's ex parte motion to compel discovery, and for sanctions.

Counsel, please state your appearances.

MS. ARRIOLA: Good morning, Your Honor. Anita Arriola for the plaintiffs Alan and Laju Sadhwani and K. Sadhwani's Incorporated.

MR. BRONZE: Good morning, Your Honor. Jacques Bronze on behalf of HSBC.

THE COURT: Okay. The Court has three motions before it today. I'm wondering whether any of these motions have been agreed to by the parties in terms of its disposition, or we're just going to hear the

motions today? 1 2 MR. BRONZE: No, Your Honor. 3 THE COURT: Okay. I suppose the first one 4 that we need to take is the one filed first, and that 5 would be the May 4th ex parte motion to reconsider 6 order denying the motion to stay all depositions. 7 Has that been rendered moot in some respects? MR. BRONZE: Your Honor, I haven't -- Judge 8 9 Pregerson heard the motion. He did circulate a 10 preliminary tentative order; we have not received it. 11 So to a certain extent, assuming that is what is 12 eventually filed, it would be to a certain extent 13 rendered moot. 14 However, there's still no first amended 15 complaint on file. 16 MS. ARRIOLA: Excuse me, Your Honor? 17 THE COURT: Yes. 18 MS. ARRIOLA: We did receive an order from the 19 Court, and we did serve a second amended complaint 20 yesterday. 21 THE COURT: All right. I do have an order 22 here dated -- is it the order dated May 28, or is that 23 another order that you're talking about? 24 MS. ARRIOLA: It would have been the order 25 dated May 28, but it did not come out until Tuesday, I

1 believe; that's when our office received it. 2 MR. BRONZE: Your Honor, I did not receive any 3 order from the Court yesterday. And I didn't go to the 4 office this morning, so --5 THE COURT: All right. The order basically 6 grants the defendant's motion to strike, and -- the 7 first amended complaint in its entirety. The second 8 part of the order vacates as moot the defendant's motion to dismiss the third and sixth causes of action; 9 10 and the third part of the order denies the defendant's 11 motion for sanctions. 12 And I have been informed that that was entered 13 on the docket yesterday, June 2nd, although it was 14 filed May 28. It was entered on the docket yesterday. 15 And you received your copy yesterday, Ms. Arriola? 16 MS. ARRIOLA: Yes, Your Honor. 17 THE COURT: So you should be receiving yours 18 then, Mr. Bronze. 19 MR. BRONZE: I will check the court box, Your 20 Honor. 21 MS. ARRIOLA: Your Honor, based on that order, 22 we believe that HSBC's motion to reconsider, it has 23 been rendered moot. 24 THE COURT: Assuming that you get the order, 25 would counsel be in agreement with that? Actually

that's what the order --

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MR. BRONZE: I haven't seen the order, but I assume the order is what --

THE COURT: Okay. Then maybe we could go on to the second motion then, and that's the motion to vacate the scheduling order. And I'm wondering whether things have also been put in place where this motion might appear to be proper because of the -- you've just filed an amended complaint, right, Ms. Arriola?

MS. ARRIOLA: Second amended complaint, yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: So, does that necessitate a new scheduling order?

MS. ARRIOLA: We don't believe so, Your Honor.

I can state, Your Honor, that insofar as the bank has asked for an amendment of the scheduling order in terms of extending the discovery deadline, we have to agree to that, and primarily out of necessity, only because we have not been able to take the depositions of the HSBC representatives who failed to show up at their depositions. So to that extent, I think that there is some agreement, but the plaintiffs do oppose a rescheduling of the trial date. And we don't think that the second amended complaint --

THE COURT: But basically your position then

is that discovery can take place even though you've 1 alleged more claims within the time frame that is set 2 for trial of the matter? 3 MS. ARRIOLA: That's right, Your Honor. 4 And, Your Honor, I would note we haven't added 5 more claims. The judge just allowed us to reassert the 6 third and sixth causes of action in his original order. 7 THE COURT: So my understanding is that you've 8 basically stated more allegations in terms of your 9 other causes of action? 10 11 MS. ARRIOLA: No, Your Honor. That's why there was the motion to strike, and that's why the 12 motion to strike was granted. We, because the motion 13 14 to strike was granted, we cut out all the other allegations that we had alleged, the new allegations 15 that we had alleged, and --16 THE COURT: So that would mean you've gone 17 forward on your original complaint? 18 MS. ARRIOLA: Uhm --19 THE COURT: My understanding is that you had 20 21 a complaint, and then there was a motion to dismiss and I think it was granted in part as to the -- is it the 22 23 fourth or sixth or third --MS. ARRIOLA: It was granted in part as to the 24 25 third and sixth --

1 THE COURT: Okay, third and sixth. And then 2 when you filed your first amended complaint, you incorporated other allegations in the first, second, 3 4 fourth, fifth causes of action. 5 MS. ARRIOLA: Correct. And then the judge 6 granted the motion to strike. 7 THE COURT: The motion to strike. 8 MS. ARRIOLA: So we filed a second amended 9 complaint only as to the third and the sixth causes 10 of action. In other words, it's the same original 11 complaint. 12 THE COURT: So that's what I'm saying. 13 MS. ARRIOLA: We just reasserted the third and 14 the sixth causes of action pursuant to Judge Unpingco's 15 order. 16 So you did not avail yourself of THE COURT: 17 the Judge's order that says you could file your new 18 complaint as -- I mean, the first amended complaint? 19 It seemed to me that what he was saying was that he 20 gave you leave to file your complaint as you -- I mean 21 your first amended complaint. 22 MS. ARRIOLA: That was not what the order 23 said, Your Honor. 24 THE COURT: Oh, okay. I'm sorry. 25 MS. ARRIOLA: The order said very clearly

1 "follow Judge Unpingco's order, you are only allowed 2 to reassert the third and sixth causes of action". 3 THE COURT: I see. Okay. So basically, any 4 response or any answer would be as to the third and 5 sixth claims then? 6 MS. ARRIOLA: Well, they would have to file an 7 amended answer to our second amended complaint, and --8 Incorporating the first, second, THE COURT: 9 third, fourth, fifth and sixth? 10 MS. ARRIOLA: Yes, Your Honor. 1 1 THE COURT: Mr. Bronze? 12 MR. BRONZE: Your Honor, what the plaintiffs 13 are asking is that, actually, the September trial date 14 would stay. 15 THE COURT: Is that September 2004? 16 MR. BRONZE: Yes. 17 THE COURT: And when was this case filed? 18 MR. BRONZE: October 21st of 2003. 19 And so she's saying basically, let's assume 20 we'll just use from June to August or three months to 21 do discovery, and we have September 21st for the trial. 22 I think HSBC here has been diligent, we have laid out 23 all the discovery, moved on today, with the exception 24 of depositions. 25 On April 30th we received a response as it

relates to our first set of interrogs, where it appeared two names of two individuals which were not disclosed to us in their initial disclosures or supplemental disclosures. One of these individuals lives in Philippines, one lives in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. We requested plaintiffs to provide us a supplemental disclosure, a letter was sent to her on May 23rd, in order to comply with 26(a)(1)(A); to this date we have not received a response. However, we can only surmise that these two individuals involve -- these potentially individuals were to provide financing to Mr. Sadhwani other than First Hawaiian Bank.

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And I contacted, immediately contacted HSBC's general counsel in the Philippines to find out what's the process, how long the process; I mean, this was filed May 7th, I found this information on April 30th. The general counsel indicated to me that Philippines is not part of The Hague Convention, it's not a signatory.

I went to the U.S. State Department website, and the U.S. State Department website indicates that you can only do it through -- a letter of request can only be done through diplomatic channels. And the website, I've attached the copy of what's on the website, I think it's Exhibit 3 to my declaration,

states it takes a year for this process to undertake. The general counsel for the HSBC in the Philippines filed a declaration with this court, Jerry Lipcomb, he stated it takes three to four months.

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In terms of Dubai, I attempted to contact the counsel for HSBC in Dubai; he is not a litigation counsel, however, he has had experience in these matters. He also indicated to me, and this is supported by my declaration on file with the Court, that United Arab Emirates is not a signatory of The Hague Convention, and this is a process that will take more than a year to undertake. HSBC has subsequently retained a litigation counsel in this matter to get further advice; however, the counsel is on leave. I briefly spoke to him from Greece, and he'll be back in Dubai, I believe, in a week.

But the facts are that based on -- what's being requested by plaintiffs is nonsensical, it's not achievable. We have about four foreign countries depositions have to take place. They have stated in their reply they intend to depose HSBC's former Guam CEO, Mr. Priestly, who is now the CEO in Pakistan. I spoke to -- I have an e-mail here, HSBC has tried to retain Mr. Sajid Zahid; I have not had an opportunity to file his declaration with the court because we

finally just retained this guy on May 29, and he has indicated to me again that Pakistan is not -- it's a signatory to The Hague Convention but only as it relates to service of documents, not for taking evidence abroad. He's indicated to me that it could take up to a year to get this process done in terms of they want to seek deposition in Pakistan. Based on --

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THE COURT: These are your employees?

MR. BRONZE: No, these are not employees.

These are -- this is independent counsel from a firm by the name of Orr, O-R-R, Dignam, D-I-G-N-A-M, and Company. This is an independent counsel, this is not -- in Pakistan. For Philippines, we have the general counsel of the Philippines, who says it's three to four months, we have the U.S. State Department website that says one year.

It is to be noted, Your Honor, that based on the schedule being offered by the plaintiffs here, where there's no time to file any motion for summary judgment, the Local Rules of Court 16.7 requires that a trial brief be filed 30 days prior to trial; this is just not feasible. I mean, we're going to be back here doing this, asking this Court again to reschedule this matter. I originally objected to such a short period of time. And we are now here --

1 I'm sorry, who set the date for THE COURT: 2 trial? 3 MR. BRONZE: The judge did. 4 THE COURT: Okay. 5 MR. BRONZE: I mean, we have both filed 6 objections, and I think the judge moved some dates, 7 but set it what it is now. 8 In conclusion, Your Honor --9 THE COURT: Let me just ask in furtherance 1.0 of that prior question, what trial time frame were you 11 looking at? 12 MR. BRONZE: Your Honor, I can't recall 13 exactly. I think at that time we had proposed the 14 following -- next year or December. I can't remember. 15 I can go back to the file and look; I can't remember. 16 And at that time when we had entered into the 17 scheduling order, HSBC was not in a position to know 18 about these foreign depositions. We knew we were --19 we would have to defend depositions as it relates in 20 particular to the Hong Kong depositions. These two 21 individuals just popped up on April 30th; we didn't 22 know we had to take depositions anywhere else. 23 we had to defend it at the very least in Hong Kong. 24 those were certainly not contemplated, not foreseeable, 25 at least from my perspective, as of the time when we

entered the scheduling order.

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And I think the true facts of the situation here is this is not achievable in three months.  $W \in$ are really kidding ourselves when we're dealing with foreign courts, especially where countries are not members of The Haque Convention, you know, to achieve this discovery within three months. I mean, for Hong Kong alone, I'm informed by our counsel in Hong Kong that it just filed it in Hong Kong Court I think yesterday or a few days ago. And this order was issued more than a month ago. So I ask Your Honor to seriously -- to set aside the scheduling order, and, you know, the range here really for discovery is between four months to a year. And the Court at its convenience can set whatever trial date, whoever the judge is available at that time.

So, really, we've been diligent, there's good cause to set aside the scheduling order. And the trial date cannot be maintained under these circumstances. And no amount of diligence by HSBC would have -- even if I got a litigation counsel in the Philippines, we got this information April 30th, the discovery cut-off is June 7, there's no way I could do a deposition in the Philippines within a month.

Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Assuming that it becomes necessary to amend the scheduling order based on discovery needs, what time frame are you looking at in terms of setting this matter for trial?

MR. BRONZE: Your Honor, I guess it would just follow what the discovery period the Court wishes to give.

THE COURT: But aren't we under some rule that requires trials within a certain time period, so we just can't say that we're going to let discovery run until exhausted and then we set a trial after discovery is complete --

MR. BRONZE: I think it's 18 months, and we are far from that. I think there's a rule, yeah, it says 18 months. I've seen it put in the schedule order, it's 18 months. And we are far from that. This case was filed in October.

I mean, the plaintiffs themselves admitted they need time, except for their argument that, oh, we can accomplish all that in three months; it's nonsensical. I mean, they have not provided this Court with any facts other than their word. I mean, I at least have spoken to lawyers in the Philippines, lawyers in Pakistan, who has informed me what the true timelines are. An independent source, the U.S. State

Department, Judicial Assistance Section says it's going 1 to take a year. I don't know which one it is, but we 2 3 certainly know it's between three months to a year. THE COURT: All right. No, I just need to --4 5 these individuals that you say whose depositions are going to be taken, whose witnesses are they? 6 7 MR. BRONZE: They are their witnesses. 8 THE COURT: The plaintiff's witnesses? 9 MR. BRONZE: Yes. 10 THE COURT: And they are -- what is the 11 relationship again, counsel, general counsel to your --12 to the defendants? 13 MR. BRONZE: No, these witnesses are purely 14 witnesses, fact witnesses for plaintiffs. 15 THE COURT: Who have worked for the 16 defendants? 17 MR. BRONZE: No, no. I believe, it's not --18 it's not clear from the complaint because the 19 individuals in the first amended complaint remain 20 nameless, but we believe these are individuals that 21 supposedly Mr. Sadhwani is now alleging were available 22 to provide financing to him as alternative, other than 23 First Hawaiian Bank, these were individuals. This was never disclosed to us, it was never disclosed in the 24 original complaint, they were never disclosed to us in 25

the --1 2 THE COURT: I see. So you want to take their 3 depositions? MR. BRONZE: That's correct. And we didn't 4 5 know that until April 30th. And we still don't have 6 contact numbers for these individuals --7 THE COURT: And you're talking about two individuals? 8 9 MR. BRONZE: Yes. Yes, one in the 10 Philippines, one in Dubai. And plaintiffs have stated 11 in their reply memo that they intend to depose 12 Priestly, Mr. Priestly, in Pakistan. So they're going 13 to have to file letters of request. And I'm telling the Court that I have consulted with an independent 14 attorney in Pakistan and he's told me that it's going 15 16 to take at least a year. 17 THE COURT: But Priestly works for you, 18 though? 19 MR. BRONZE: Correct. 20 THE COURT: I mean, wouldn't it be reasonable 21 to believe that you can have him available without 22 going through diplomatic channels, because he is an 23 employee of the defendant? MR. BRONZE: Your Honor, that's what the 24 25 letter -- he's not employed with HSBC Guam.

1 THE COURT: But he's an employee of one of the 2 defendants. 3 MR. BRONZE: That's what Rule 28 --4 THE COURT: -- who came to this Court to ask 5 for a change in forum because of diversity. So having availed itself to the, I suppose one of the benefits of 6 7 this forum, now to come in and say, well, but I cannot be deposed because of international --8 9 MR. BRONZE: Your Honor, that's what Rule 28 10 The process of doing any depositions abroad is 11 in Rule 28. You are required to comply with Rule 28. 12 And that's what they are required to do. And we will 13 do the same, we'll comply with Rule 28. 14 THE COURT: But this is an employee of one of 15 the defendants, though? MR. BRONZE: I don't think it matters, Your 16 17 We have no jurisdiction; this guy lives in 18 Pakistan. HSBC Guam is a completely separate, distinct 19 entity. 20 THE COURT: But hasn't that company availed 21 itself to this court's jurisdiction by asking this 22 court to undertake this case? 23 MR. BRONZE: HSBC Guam, yes; not HSBC 24 Pakistan. HS Pakistan is a different corporate structure. 25

1 THE COURT: But we wouldn't grant jurisdiction 2 if HSBC Guam is asking this Court to take jurisdiction 3 because it's a Guam company, there's no diversity. 4 MR. BRONZE: It's a foreign banking 5 corporation which falls under Hong Kong. HSBC in Pakistan does not, my understanding, fall under Hong 6 7 Kong. And the process to undertake these depositions, 8 you go to the principal place of business of the 9 corporate defendant and take the deposition, and in 10 accordance -- Rule 28 says that's the mechanics for it. 11 THE COURT: So HSB Guam is a foreign 12 corporation? 13 MR. BRONZE: It's a foreign banking 14 corporation, operating -- which is essentially a subsidiary of HSBC in Hong Kong, whose parent is HSBC 15 16 Group Holdings PLC in London. 17 THE COURT: And the individual in Pakistan 18 used to be the general manager here? 19 MR. BRONZE: Correct. 2.0 THE COURT: Or the branch manager? 21 MR. BRONZE: Correct. I think he moved in 22 December of 2002, I'm not sure, or earlier than that. 23 THE COURT: But don't you have the -- don't 24 you have the right to move him places, and to move him 25 here for vacation, so a deposition can be taken?

MR. BRONZE: Your Honor, the orders I've got is, they want to take depositions of HSBC officers worldwide, they get a court order, they'll make them available. I wish I could come to this court and say otherwise; I'm not in a position to.

THE COURT: But isn't the whole purpose really

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THE COURT: But isn't the whole purpose really of, you know, litigation to facilitate discovery, one by the other side expects you to facilitate discovery to the plaintiff just like I expect the plaintiff to facilitate discovery for you?

MR. BRONZE: Your Honor, and that's the problem in this case. We've got no facilitation from plaintiff. We can't get -- you can go back to the file, we can't get a 15-page extension, okay, when we need more than 15, more than 25 pages in a brief, we couldn't even get an extended stipulation. Okay. I'm all for the policy of you scratch my back, I scratch yours; that's -- it should be that way. Unfortunately, dealing with plaintiff's counsel, it's not that way, and we don't expect --

THE COURT: But isn't the policy that you provide discovery whether you scratch my back or not?

MR. BRONZE: No. I mean, the rules are there, it's not -- this is -- this is what the rules are. I mean, this is not serving us interrogs and asking us

questions or deposing HSBC officers here. They want to depose an officer of HSBC out in Pakistan; there's a process for that. And I don't see why we -- we should be punished or penalized because they have to undertake a process that the Federal Rules have set for them to do. I mean, that's typical in these cases involving these big corporations where you've got people scattered all over the world, is these letters of request. And the bank, I don't know that, I'll have to check; the bank may have a policy that they don't make their officers available unless you get a court order to do that.

THE COURT: All right. So the reason why you say the trial should be moved is because the

THE COURT: All right. So the reason why you say the trial should be moved is because the individuals that the plaintiffs intend to depose can only be deposed by going through a procedure which may take a year?

MR. BRONZE: They have to do it, we have to do it. And they've already done one as it relates to Hong Kong.

THE COURT: But is that the rationale for extending the trial date and vacating the scheduling order?

MR. BRONZE: Well, we've still got depositions to take; we have not done any of our depositions.

1 They've still got depositions; I believe they want to 2 depose certain First Hawaiian officers, and they can 3 clarify that --4 THE COURT: But the depositions that you want 5 to take though, I mean, what foreseeable time frame do 6 we say will they be completed? What's the time frame 7 for completion of the depositions that you want to 8 take? Is it going to take a year based on 9 international policies? 10 MR. BRONZE: No, I don't think -- no, the 11 local depositions, obviously, assuming all these 12 witnesses are available. Not all the --13 THE COURT: They can take 30 days? 14 MR. BRONZE: Depending on the witnesses' 15 availability. I think to be fair to the witnesses, to 16 say they're available two to three month period --17 THE COURT: All right. These witnesses are --18 MR. BRONZE: The witnesses are here --19 THE COURT: -- they're employees, related to 20 the plaintiffs, or, what relationship do these 21 witnesses have to the parties? 22 MR. BRONZE: Well, our -- our deponents would 23 be obviously the plaintiffs themselves, and 2.4 Chris Felix. 25 THE COURT: Well, you know, I mean I suppose

1 you could schedule a notice for ten days and they'll be 2 there to have their deposition taken. 3 MR. BRONZE: A couple of First Hawaiian 4 officers. And in regards to, I believe, they want to 5 take HSBC's former officer in, I think he's in San Francisco, and then --6 7 THE COURT: All right. They want to take the 8 San Francisco deposition, the plaintiffs? 9 MR. BRONZE: Yes, plaintiffs. And he's no 1.0 longer an employee of HSBC. 11 THE COURT: But it seems like -- see, I'm 12 trying to figure out the rationale here for extending 13 the scheduling date of the trial. And you say you want 14 to extend it because you're accommodating the 15 plaintiffs' discovery, and that does not seem to be 16 rationale for extending the trial date. MR. BRONZE: Well, on our part, if we have 17 18 the local depositions, it could be accomplished in 19 two to three months. But then we got the foreign 2.0 depositions. 21 THE COURT: That they want to take, the 22 plaintiffs want to take? 23 MR. BRONZE: No, that we want to take, and 24 they want to take. They have stated in their reply 25 memo they want to take the deposition --

1 THE COURT: All right. So the foreign 2 depositions that you want to take, who are these 3 individuals? MR. BRONZE: These are the two individuals 5 that they identified in the April 30th first set of 6 interrogs as potentially the individuals that would 7 have --8 THE COURT: The one in the Philippines? 9 MR. BRONZE: Yes, and the one in Dubai. 10 THE COURT: Okay. 11 MR. BRONZE: Thank you, Your Honor. 12 THE COURT: Ms. Arriola? 13 MS. ARRIOLA: Thank you, Your Honor. 1.4 The standard in determining whether to modify a scheduling order is whether good cause exists. 15 16 good cause as determined by the various case law that's 17 cited in both of our briefs is whether or not the 18 moving party has conducted due diligence in their 19 pursuit or their defense of the case. 20 You'll notice that the bank has not said 21 very much about their due diligence in this case. 22 Mr. Bronze stated one sentence that said "we have 2.3 been diligent". But let's look at the record to see 24 exactly what the bank has done, because the record 25 shows that the bank has not been diligent in their

defense of the case, but instead, has done everything possible to try to delay depositions and discovery, to try to stall the trial date, and to make it as expensive as possible for the plaintiffs to pursue their case.

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To date the bank's discovery has been one request for production of documents served in December; a first set of interrogatories served in March, five months after the complaint was filed; and one deposition of a custodian of records at First Hawaiian Bank. They haven't even tried to take the deposition of the plaintiffs or of any other witnesses. That is not the conduct of a party who is diligently pursuing their case.

On the other hand, let's look at the record to see what the bank has filed in this case. They've filed five ex parte motions to stay all depositions and to stay the proceedings in this case on March 31st, April 23rd, April 30th, May 4th--two motions on May 4. So what we see is a pattern of conduct where the bank has tried everything in their power to delay this case, delay discovery, and that was a deliberate and calculated decision by the bank not to do any discovery, but to try to file all these meritless, groundless motions to try to stay discovery and not

do anything until the very last minute, and then come into court and say, please, vacate the trial date and the discovery dates because we haven't had time to do our depositions.

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Your Honor, you know, that's the bank's problem; that's not our problem, and that's not the court's problem. We agreed to take the depositions of their bank representatives in the beginning of May. In fact, you know, Your Honor, it really aggravates me that Mr. Bronze comes into court and says that we have not agreed to cooperate with them, because at the very beginning of this case I wrote a letter saying, "we know you have off-island witnesses who are employed by the bank; will you agree to make them available?" Response: Absolutely not, you're going to have to go through Rule 28 if you want to take depositions of our people off-island. That's what we did. We filed a letter of request for two depositions in Hong Kong, we filed that request or that application over a month ago in Hong Kong; we expect to hear an answer this week.

Judge Unpingco ruled on one of their motions to stay depositions in this case, and in his order he called the bank's conduct a delay tactic. And that's exactly what it is. The Court should not reward the bank's lack of diligence and their delaying tactics by

allowing them an additional nine months of discovery, and a year and four months before trial, which is what they're asking for in their proposed scheduling order.

Your Honor asked, what did the bank propose when we had the proposed scheduling order and discovery plan before the court. The bank asked for a trial date of October 2004; the plaintiffs asked for a trial date of August, 2004. In our scheduling conference before Judge Unpingco, the judge basically split it between the parties and said, you know, I'm ordering the trial to be held in September since you two can't agree.

Now, much has been made of the fact by

Mr. Bronze that these foreign depositions are going

to take a great deal of time, and that we didn't

disclose these two individuals in our answers to

interrogatories until April 30th. Well, Your Honor,

they didn't serve their first interrogatories until

March, five months after the complaint was filed.

So that's lack of diligence on their part.

As Your Honor knows, because I have been before Your Honor in the Superior Court in cases involving letters of request on foreign depositions, I've had a great deal of experience in them. And, Your Honor, the website on the State Department and what is required in each country is simply not

informative. In fact, there's a disclaimer on the website that specifically says, "we do not guarantee the authenticity of the information in this website"; you are, you know, required to go and seek local counsel or other more pertinent information in the location in which you attempt to takes depositions or other evidence abroad.

Our experience has been that once you have experienced counsel, they diligently pursue a letter of request, or Letters Rogatory, you can have an order from a foreign court within a few weeks, at the most a month or so, before you get an order granting the taking of depositions of individuals abroad. We did that last year in the Western Systems case in Australia, in India, and in London. So, you know, it doesn't take a very long period of time, and it certainly doesn't take a year.

The only reason that we are asking for an extension of the discovery deadline is because we're forced to. The bank agreed to produce their witnesses for deposition the first week of May; in fact, we went round and round on this. Mr. Bronze, you know, went so far --

THE COURT: You're asking to extend the discovery deadline by how much time?

MS. ARRIOLA: We would ask until the end of July or the end of August. And we'd ask the trial date remain intact.

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Here, Your Honor, this is not a situation where we -- in every trial that I've been involved in, almost always there are depositions that are late or that take -- that are asked leave of court, people ask leave of court if they can take depositions beyond the discovery deadline due to extenuating circumstances.

Obviously, we would have no objection if the bank wanted to take their depositions right up until trial date of these people in the Philippines and in Dubai, if that's what they wanted to do, because, you know, they're obviously entitled to take those depositions. But we don't believe that the trial date should be continued up to a year and four months from now, which they've proposed in their amended scheduling order; they've asked for a trial date of October 2005, and they've asked for additional discovery of nine months.

THE COURT: But are these witnesses on your trial list of -- or are these individuals on your trial list of witnesses?

MS. ARRIOLA: They are not on our trial list; they were simply answers to interrogatories. We do not

at this point intend to call them as witnesses. We believe that that information can be obtained from the plaintiffs. But obviously, you know, if the bank feels that that is not the case, they can certainly go and take these depositions.

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THE COURT: Through interrogatories, through your office maybe or not?

MS. ARRIOLA: That's certainly the case, they still have, you know, additional interrogatories under the rules that they can ask for.

I mean, Your Honor, you know, your questions are right on point, which is, you know, what is the least expensive and the most efficient way for us to conduct the discovery in this case.

For example, you know, we have stated our intention to take Guy Priestly's deposition in Pakistan if we're forced to do that. But, frankly, we believe that we might be able to get the deposition from the two witnesses who refused to appear for their depositions, who are bank employees now, because they were there at the same time as all the, you know, the facts and the events that are giving rise to this complaint. It may very well be that we may not need to take his deposition at all.

THE COURT: I see.

MS. ARRIOLA: What I have not heard the bank state in this case is what prejudice do they suffer from moving the trial date or from, you know, extending --

THE COURT: Will the plaintiffs suffer any prejudice if it's moved two months?

MS. ARRIOLA: Absolutely. Your Honor, absolutely. Let me tell you what the prejudice is.

My clients have a promissory note that they had with the bank, they are making monthly payments of \$75,000 a month. That's a huge amount for them to be making, particularly in this economy, particularly in the rental market, and particularly in the type of business that they're in, which involves inventory and retail sales, for example, at Tick Tock Shop.

Had the bank allowed my clients the opportunity to fulfill their obligations under the work-out agreement, which is the centerpiece of this case, that the bank and the plaintiffs had a work-out agreement where the bank would allow the plaintiffs to either sell off their properties or obtain alternate financing, they would not be here today and they would not be required to make those \$75,000 a month payments to Paradise Marine Corporation which bought the note from the bank.

Now, you know, the bank is -- counsel is going to come up and --

THE COURT: They're making monthly payments on a note that has matured?

MS. ARRIOLA: It has matured, true. As such, Your Honor, which is a good point, as such, Paradise Marine Corporation has already claimed that they are in default. Therefore, the prejudice to my clients is that if they are in default and the bank seizes or forecloses on these valuable pieces of property, which includes the HongKong Shanghai Bank building in, you know, Tamuning, as well as other valuable pieces of property in Guam --

THE COURT: Wouldn't you be able -- Well, assuming if you suffer losses, wouldn't you be able to claim more damages?

MS. ARRIOLA: That's correct, Your Honor.

That's correct. Except, of course, Your Honor,

foreclosure of real property is in many instances

irreparable damage; you know, it's an intangible that

you cannot recover once those properties are foreclosed

upon. And that is a serious prejudice and harm to my

client. By contrast, we haven't heard anything from

the bank in terms of what their prejudice, except for

the fact that, number one, they refuse to bring their

employees, you know, to a place where we can depose 1 2 them conveniently; and secondly, that they need an 3 extension of the trial date and the discovery date because they just weren't diligent. 4 5 THE COURT: Is the monthly payment the prejudice, or the fear that it might be foreclosed? 6 7 It's both, Your Honor, because MS. ARRIOLA: frankly, they are not able to make the monthly 8 9 payments. And that has already been borne out by 10 letters from Paradise Marine Corporation's attorneys 11 saying that they are in default. So it's both, they can't make the monthly payment, and they are in real 12 13 danger of the properties being foreclosed. 14 With all that, Your Honor, we would ask for 15 a brief extension of the discovery deadline so we can take the depositions of the bank employees who refused 16 17 to appear for their depositions, and so that the defendants can take the plaintiffs' depositions. 18 THE COURT: What's the deadline at the moment 19 2.0 in terms of discovery? 21 MS. ARRIOLA: The deadline is Tuesday, June 8. 22 THE COURT: June 8. And you're asking for an extension to when? 23 MS. ARRIOLA: Until the end of July or mid-2.4 25 August.

THE COURT: And the trial is on the 21st of September?

MS. ARRIOLA: Yes.

THE COURT: Well, that's another thing I don't know, whether we might have a visiting judge to hear

6 | the case.

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MS. ARRIOLA: I understand that, Your Honor. However, as Your Honor knows, if we take the trial date off the calendar, you know, and we don't have a firm trial date, it doesn't give the parties, particularly the bank, any incentive to diligently pursue their case, and for us to even, you know, complete our case.

Your Honor, I'm sure this will come up in the plaintiff's motion to compel the depositions of the bank employees, you know, I notice that the bank filed a reply stating that, you know, there's no need for a motion to compel our bank employees' depositions because we will agree to produce them as soon as the Court issues an order on our motion to stay; and once the Court issues an order, we would like the depositions to be held 30 days from the date of that order.

You know, Your Honor, we're willing to take the depositions next week; we want to take the

depositions as soon as possible. We just want to 1 prosecute this case and get our case to trial. 2 3 And unless Your Honor has any questions, that -- we would submit on that. 4 5 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you. Mr. Bronze, reply? 6 MR. BRONZE: Your Honor, based on the fact 7 that this case has only been filed in October, on Page 8 5 of my opening brief requesting the Court to vacate 9 this trial date, we have shown that we have been 10 11 I think before you take depositions, and you diliaent. 12 can look at various treatises on this, that you try to do all your paper discovery as much as possible. 13 The disclosures were made to them on December 14 12, there were hundreds if not thousands of additional 15 disclosures that we made on January 29th and February 16 17 11th. We then subpoenaed First Hawaiian Bank documents on December 29th, we did a request --18 19 THE COURT: But you haven't even taken the deposition of the plaintiffs, which appears --20 21 MR. BRONZE: Your Honor, we cannot take the 22 deposition of plaintiffs until we get all this paper discovery done, then there's all this paper -- amended 2.3 complaint filed where we are being asked to depose a 24 plaintiff when we don't even know what the facts are. 25

1 The Court has struck the first amended complaint. Wе 2 are litigating the case by ambush where I cannot go 3 back later on and try to re-depose Mr. Sadhwani over issues that were raised in an amended complaint which 4 5 was not in a court file. THE COURT: All right. But even if it struck 6 7 the first amended complaint, though, you have to remember that the causes of action continue, it's the 8 9 causes of action that, you know, bears on the case, 1.0 that's what you're defending, not so much certain allegations within each cause of action but the cause 11 12 of action. It has remained -- it has remained in the 13 case. 14 MR. BRONZE: You cannot depose a party to a 15 case without knowing what the allegations are and test 16 those allegations in --17 THE COURT: But you know what the allegations 18 are in the first complaint that was filed because your 19 subsequent motion was basically to strike. 20 MR. BRONZE: Correct. And this was not --21 THE COURT: The only thing that would be 22 stricken was the additional verbiage that was put in 23 the first amended complaint. 24 MR. BRONZE: So what we have -- what the Court 25 is telling me is the Court -- the plaintiffs can

1 violate the Federal Rules and I still have to take a 2 deposition on a complaint that has no legal effect. 3 And that's what the judge found, that they didn't. THE COURT: Well, you know, if you move to 4 5 strike, and it appears that the common-sensical thing 6 would be to strike the verbiage that appeared in the 7 first amended complaint --MR. BRONZE: Granted, Your Honor, but at least 8 9 once a complaint is filed, we know what the facts will 10 be in the complaint and not be in the complaint. 11 THE COURT: But you've known since the date 12 the complaint was filed what the facts are in the 13 original complaint. 14 MR. BRONZE: Yes, but they are seeking to 15 amend the complaint, which --THE COURT: I don't think they're seeking to 16 17 amend the complaint. 18 MR. BRONZE: The Court order allowed them to 19 -- Judge Unpingco's order allowed them to amend. 20 THE COURT: The third and the sixth. 21 MR. BRONZE: The third and the sixth. 22 that's not what they did. They filed a completely 23 different first amended complaint from just the third 24 and the sixth; they amended the factual allegations, 25 they amended counts 1, 2, 3, 4 --

And you objected to the amendments 1 THE COURT: 2 of those claims. 3 MR. BRONZE: Right. And my point is how can 4 I take a deposition? We have filed a motion to strike this pending the Court's resolution what the true state 5 of the status of the complaint is. 6 7 But what I'm saying, though, is THE COURT: that your motion to strike only relates to the 8 9 additional verbiage. You still have the original 10 complaint that you can use as a basis for getting 11 information, discovery. 12 MR. BRONZE: Then we are litigating by ambush, 13 Your Honor. I would not -- if they did something else, 14 which they have a pattern of doing, if they add 15 something else to their first amended complaint, or 16 second amended complaint, we have no ability later on 17 to get information from a material witness as it 18 relates to these facts. We are being set up for ambush 19 here. 20 THE COURT: You can ask the Court to have 21 another deposition. 22 MR. BRONZE: Your Honor, that is not right. I mean, it's just giving the plaintiffs another second 23 bite at the apple that -- they themselves have attached 2.4 25 to the declaration to the motion to reconsider, they

1 wrote me a letter saying they do not believe that 2 there's such a right to re-depose witnesses. Okay, they have taken that position. 3 THE COURT: Then you come to court and the 4 5 court will give you that right. You respect what --6 MR. BRONZE: (Overlapping/unintelligible.) 7 THE COURT: -- the rule says, the court can 8 give you the right to take the deposition of a witness 9 that has previously been deposed. 10 MR. BRONZE: Your Honor, I don't believe that 11 there's a rule for it; they've taken the position 12 that's not, the fact that we have not taken --13 THE COURT: Well, I've had witnesses deposed 14 again when the parties come to court and ask that they 15 take the deposition again. 16 MR. BRONZE: Your Honor, granted, okay, we 17 didn't do the deposition. We filed this, and 30 days 18 prior to the discovery cut-off, it's being now heard 19 for various reasons on June, whatever today is, June 4. 20 That is clearly, we have been diligent in this case. 21 The fact that they have not -- then there's these 22 issues regarding these foreign depositions. 23 Ms. Arriola talks about she's done depositions 24 in London and Australia; you cannot compare 25 jurisdictions like London and Australia to places like

Pakistan and the Philippines where -- I mean, it's common knowledge, these places take forever to resolve cases. And the fact that these countries, London and Australia, the Court can do the search, these countries I'm pretty sure are signatories to The Hague Convention; the process is a much faster process. That is not the case for Dubai, for the Philippines, for Pakistan.

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In regards -- well, she may not be, need to take the deposition of Priestly because she will take the deposition of Mr. Underwood. Mr. Underwood, I do not believe was here when Mr. Priestly was in Guam, so maybe she will need it, maybe she will not.

The burden on KSI is no different than any litigant that chooses to come to this court and file a case. Litigants always face immeasurable either damages or burdens. What they faced when they face this loan, 75,000, is the same they face now having to pay PMC 75,000. And I'm informed by PMC they have now stopped making payments on that; that's their problem. If they are refusing to pay PMC to finance this litigation, they do that at their own peril.

In regards to the initial disclosures, where we should have asked these names at the beginning of the case, we didn't -- we're narrowing down which

1 witnesses they will call, and we filed the interrogs, 2 they then popped up with these two names, which they 3 are required. If this was not a sham concocted at the 4 last minute, they should have known these names when 5 they gave us the initial disclosures. And I'm telling 6 the Court they never did, nor in their supplemental. They only did it on April 30th. And now they're 7 8 placing the blame on us for wanting to depose the 9 witnesses. And the fact that, you know, it takes, you 1.0 know, three months, six months to a year --11 THE COURT: But Ms. Arriola said that these 12 individuals are not going to be on their witness list, so whatever it is that they've said --13 MR. BRONZE: It's my obligation to depose 14 15 these witnesses. Yes, it's on their witness list, but 16 I have a right to depose them. 17 THE COURT: All right. But whatever 18 information it is that they're going to shed on the 19 case may not come in because they're not going to be 2.0 here to testify. 21 MR. BRONZE: Well, I --22 THE COURT: You're arguing over discovery of 23 these individuals, and more likely there's no evidence 24 that's going to come from them because they're not 25 going to be witnesses.

MR. BRONZE: Your Honor, that's what she says now; six months down the road, it may be a different story.

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THE COURT: In six months, if they're going to be produced, then you're going to get your extension, see?

MR. BRONZE: Your Honor, and for motion for summary judgment, we want to depose these witnesses. I'm not going to rely on counsel's statement that he's not -- I mean, she has identified them in the interrogs. She's making the statement now, well, you know, it's in their complaint, it's the first amended -- I'll bet you it's in the first amended complaint that she says these are -- although they don't put these -- identify these individuals by name, they say, there are other individuals that were supposed to provide financing, and these are the two individuals they're talking about.

THE COURT: But wouldn't it make sense for the court, if they come with these individuals and they say at a later point that they are going to be witnesses, and when you come in to me and ask for an extension that I will grant your extension because of that?

Wouldn't that be the logical thing to do?

MR. BRONZE: Your Honor, we wouldn't know that

until at a point of motion for summary judgment or at a point of trial, now we've got to delay trial to go depose two witnesses when we can go do it now. This issue of burden is like any plaintiffs who come to this court, why --

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THE COURT: Because we don't need to delay trial now because that event may not occur. But when it's a certainty, then there's a need to delay it.

MR. BRONZE: Well, they've raised a factual issue, and we have a right to depose these people. And this issue about discovery, when are we going to be able to file a motion for summary judgment, even assuming July 30th is the discovery cutoff. The rules, the local rules states that you have to file a trial brief 30 days prior to the trial date.

So, are we saying that we're going to -- I mean, when is the Court going to have time to hear a motion for summary judgment, rule on it, filing a trial brief within 30 days from trial date. It is not feasible, Your Honor.

And this prejudice being argued, this is not -- the test under 60(b) is fairly --

THE COURT: Well, you know, if we look at the practicalities really, if you feel a need to file your summary judgment and that summary judgment is pending

before trial, you may get an extension of the trial 1 pending disposition of the summary judgment motion. 2 3 MR. BRONZE: That may be the case. It gives us no time to prepare, we'll be doing discovery up to 4 5 July 30th, when is the -- we're going to get one week to file or two weeks to file a major motion for summary 6 7 judgment. What they are trying to do here, this case, 8 and Judge Pregerson asked plaintiffs, how long has this 9 10 case been -- this case has only been here on October 11 21st, filed last year. And what they are trying to do 12 is --13 THE COURT: And in part, though, you've agreed 14 to move it on a fast track by saying that you want 15 trial on October 2004. You're part of the process that has moved it on a fast track. 16 MR. BRONZE: Your Honor, like I told the 17 court, I don't know what was proposed, I can't 18 19 remember --20 Well, right here, October, I have THE COURT: 21 it right here on your proposed --22 MR. BRONZE: And --23 THE COURT: -- it says October 18, 2004, that's when you wanted to go to trial on this case. 24 25 MR. BRONZE: But that's the problem, sometimes in cases, like you go through cases, you anticipate — ou encounter problems that you don't anticipate, just like these witnesses. I mean, she needs time; I mean, she's asking the Court basically grant me an additional two, three months, but let's keep the trial date. You cater to me, but it's okay, HSBC, never mind, I mean, they'll figure it out. You know, that is not fair, and that's not what the rules state.

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THE COURT: But what I'm saying, though, is that once discovery is completed and you feel a necessity to file a summary judgment motion, the filing of that motion and its lack of disposition by a trial date may continue the trial date.

MR. BRONZE: That may be the case. Still brings us the issue of -- let's say, let's for argument's sake we say, well, as a condition precedent to the work-out, they have to get alternative financing, and we -- I mean, it is clear First Hawaiian never gave them financing. Plaintiff is going to -- their argument is, oh, I have two individuals, I will guarantee the court there are two individuals that were going to provide financing; this is the guy in Dubai, this is the guy in the Philippines.

What do we do now? Now we are stuck. Are we going do lose this motion because there's a factual

argument being raised that these two individuals that had a secret agreement with Sadhwani to do the -- to provide financing. And that's exactly their tactic here is to litigate this case by ambush. Granted as much as possible you cannot do anything, and that's their tactic, that's all along. We have not --THE COURT: But have you set the machinery in place to take their deposition? MR. BRONZE: We are working on the -- we just retained litigation counsel both in Dubai and in the Philippines, we are currently working on this. Obviously, we have this issue, we've got a June 7th discovery cut-off; it's not feasible to take these depositions. And granted, we get some time, then obviously we have started the process, and it's --THE COURT: But you haven't filed any papers that shows that you've started the process. MR. BRONZE: Your Honor, we are -- to date we have not, we're waiting -- we're working on it, I have a draft that's gone to counsel in the Philippines. Dubai, the guy is still on vacation. We have discussed it, he's interested to take the case; however, he is not in Dubai, and I believe he returns this week or the end of the week or something, or this weekend he's going to be back in Dubai. And the stuff, Your Honor,

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is time consuming, they have their own rules in Dubai and the Philippines. You know, they've got to prepare in accordance to their rules and then file it here. If there's a mistake in it, we're back to square one. These things are not as simple as --

THE COURT: You know, I have some cousins in the Philippines; maybe I can expedite it for you.

MR. BRONZE: Maybe.

(Laughter.)

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MR. BRONZE: And so, in summary, Your Honor, the July discovery cut-off period is not feasible.

We're going to be back here, it's -- we have been diligent, and I think what we're asking, we'll propose a shorter discovery period, which is maybe July of next year.

Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. On your request on this motion, the court is going to take it under advisement, really. And if I make any decisions on that motion, it's taking into consideration the fact that we have visiting judges that come by here; we are tentatively planning on scheduling some of them to come in different times. As of the moment, I don't see any judge coming here in September. So that may play a part in terms of what the court ultimately decides

here. It might move it to a time in which there will be a judge that's actually going to be here. So those would be considerations that the court will take when it issues a decision on this matter. So I'll take it under advisement.

On the third motion, it's a motion to compel and for sanctions, that's the plaintiff's motion.

MS. ARRIOLA: Your Honor, we filed this motion to compel because we knew that we would not be able to take the depositions of Fred Granillo and Chris

Underwood, the bank's representatives, before the discovery deadline in this case, which is next week

Tuesday, June 8th, and it was purely out of a precautionary measure, but also because we had had an agreement with the bank that they were going to produce their clients the first week of May for their depositions. They reneged on that agreement and instead filed several motions to stay the depositions and the proceedings.

Before getting to the merits of it, Your
Honor, though, I do want to address one issue, and that
is that the bank has raised the issue that we did not
comply with the Local Rules concerning notifying them
that we were going to file this ex parte matter. And
that is true. And there is good cause, however, Your

Honor.

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I did want to let Your Honor know that at the time that we were preparing the ex parte motion to compel the depositions of these two individuals, we were preparing our oppositions to the various motions, which numbered I would say eight or nine motions that the defendant had filed. I was getting ready to leave off island on May 12th, I had prepared a letter to Mr. Bronze for my partner, Joaquin Arriola, to sign, and that it simply, you know, got waylaid, and it was neglect that we did not send this letter out to opposing counsel informing him that we were going to do the ex parte motion.

I did write to him beforehand for a meet and confer; he did not respond, which was put in my declaration. But again, Your Honor, we would ask that our neglect and our failure to follow the local rules in terms of notifying them about the filing of the exparte motion be excused because there was good cause.

On the merits of the motion to compel, Your Honor, these two individuals, Fred Granillo and Chris Underwood, are not third party witnesses; they are parties in the case. They are the general manager of the bank and they are one of the assistant vice presidents. As I said previously, the parties agreed

1 to --2 THE COURT: Which one is the general manager? 3 MS. ARRIOLA: Chris Underwood. THE COURT: All right. 4 5 MS. ARRIOLA: And Mr. Granillo is the assistant vice president, I believe, of credit 6 7 management, but I may have that title wrong. 8 We had an agreement to take their depositions 9 the first week of May. The bank reneged on that, and 1.0 failed to show up at their depositions, and they filed 11 all of these motions to stay. 12 On May 3rd was the date of Fred Granillo's 13 deposition, and at that time there was no pending 14 motion under Rule 26. And that is what the bank is 15 relying on, they're relying on the fact that they 16 had pending motions during -- on the days that the 17 depositions were scheduled, May 3rd and May 5th. 18 However, there was not a pending motion on May 3rd 19 because their motion to stay had already been denied 2.0 by the Court on Friday, April 28th. 21 Similarly, on May 5th, the date scheduled for 22 the deposition of Chris Underwood, they claim that 2.3 there was a pending motion, but in fact, the only 24 motions on file at that time were two motions to

reconsider the orders denying the motion to stay.

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Those are not motions under Rule 26(c); those are motions to reconsider. 26(c) is very clear about what motions are required under that rule, and those are essentially motions for protective orders, or to stay depositions.

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Instead, what was present on the two days that these men were scheduled to show up for their depositions were two court orders denying the bank's motion to stay depositions; there was an order by Judge Unpingco denying the first motion to stay depositions pending determination of its first motion to dismiss, and there was the order of April 28th where the judge denied the motion to stay all depositions again.

So it is our position that sanctions should be granted against the bank for failing to show up when there were no pending motions.

THE COURT: But the bank is saying that they didn't receive notice of those orders prior to the May 3rd deposition.

MS. ARRIOLA: Well, you know, Your Honor, we received the order May 3rd, the date of Fred Granillo's deposition, and it was incumbent -- our position is it was incumbent upon the bank to check the Court for the orders, for any orders, because they were doing this on an ex parte motion basis.

In fact, if you read Mr. Bronze's deposition -- or, I'm sorry -- declaration, which was filed in support of the motion to stay, he specifically requested please try to make a decision before the date of the depositions because we have these pending motions on -- or these depositions that are scheduled to be taken on May 3rd and May 5th. And in his declaration and his motion, he specifically pleaded for 9 the Court to make a decision sometime before that week and before the date of the depositions. You know, had he been more diligent in terms 12 of following up and finding out whether or not an order 13 has been received or had been entered on the docket, he would have found that the order had been entered that 15 Friday before the date of the depositions, or at the 16 very least, on that Monday when we received notice of 17 it. So --THE COURT: Did you receive notice before the 19 deposition? 20 MS. ARRIOLA: We received notice, I believe, 21 in the morning of May 3rd. 22 THE COURT: Before the scheduled time? 23 MS. ARRIOLA: No, not before the scheduled 24 deposition.

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THE COURT: After the scheduled time?

MS. ARRIOLA: After the scheduled time, that's true.

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But, Your Honor, you know, regardless of whether you grant sanctions, what we want in this case is we want to take their depositions. That's all we're asking for. We cannot possibly take it in a time before the discovery deadline in this case, which is next Tuesday; we simply want an order from the Court compelling them to produce these two guys for their depositions, because we want to take them as soon as possible. And that is really the whole basis of our motion, we just want them to produce their people so that we can take their depositions, because we are prepared to do that, and we've been prepared to do that since the first week of May when their depositions were scheduled and noticed.

And if Your Honor is going to, you know, rule on the motion to vacate the scheduling order, and make some other deadlines, we would ask the court, you know, try to give us notice of that as soon as possible so we can take depositions as soon as possible.

THE COURT: Well, you know, I think as of the moment, we have to proceed as if the trial were to go September, because that's the only order. Until you hear otherwise, you would continue the due diligence

1 that you talked about. 2 MS. ARRIOLA: Except that the discovery deadline, the order that is outstanding on the 3 discovery deadline is Tuesday; if we can get some 4 indication, for example --5 THE COURT: Well, the Court is definitely 6 going to extend the discovery deadline. The only thing 7 that I'm going to reconsider, really, is whether 8 extending the discovery deadline necessitates extending 9 1.0 the trial date. MS. ARRIOLA: Thank you, Your Honor. Then we 11 12 can proceed with our depositions? 13 THE COURT: Anything else? MS. ARRIOLA: I'm asking, then, Your Honor, 14 I'm asking whether we can proceed with our depositions. 15 THE COURT: Well, I suppose the Court would 16 have to make that decision after this motion. 17 18 MS. ARRIOLA: But I mean with other 19 depositions. 20 THE COURT: Yes. Yes. 21 MS. ARRIOLA: I just want to make sure of 22 that. The Court is going to extend 23 THE COURT: Yes. discovery because even the defendant hasn't engaged 24 in much discovery, so I think with regards to both 25

1	sides, there is a need to extend discovery.
2	You're only asking to the end of August,
3	I think, or July? Or mid-August?
4	MS. ARRIOLA: August mid-August.
5	THE COURT: And the defendant is asking for
6	at least a year, so, obviously it would seem to be
7	prudent to extend it at least to mid-August, because
8	that's not being opposed on the other side because they
9	want a year.
10	MS. ARRIOLA: Okay.
11	THE COURT: So just for purposes of, you know,
12	some guidance, of course discovery would extend to mid-
13	August.
14	MS. ARRIOLA: Great.
15	THE COURT: August 18th, let's say.
16	MS. ARRIOLA: Thank you, Your Honor.
17	THE COURT: It can be longer, it can be less
18	depending on how that motion is decided I mean, it
19	can be more, not less.
20	MS. ARRIOLA: Thank you very much. I
21	appreciate it, Your Honor.
22	THE COURT: Mr. Bronze, on the motion to
23	compel.
24	MR. BRONZE: Your Honor, the plaintiffs have
25	argued that the motion to reconsider are not motions

under FCRP 26(c), and they have provided nowhere in 1 2 their reply brief any authority for that proposition. The facts of this case is I did not get a copy of the 3 4 Court's order, it was actually faxed by plaintiff's 5 counsel about 2:30 in the afternoon. We didn't -- I did not get the one from the Court box until sometime 6 about 4:00 o'clock. I never got any call from, my 7 8 recollection, or my staff never got any call from the 9 Court that the order had been issued. And --10 THE COURT: But the parties -- case law, case 11 law provides that parties can be sanctioned even when 12 they have pending motions for failure to appear at a 13 deposition. MR. BRONZE: Your Honor, that's not what the 14 15 rules say. The rules --16 THE COURT: Well, read 186 FRD. 17 MR. BRONZE: I don't have the Federal Rules 18 with me, Your Honor, but 37(d) says that the --19 THE COURT: Well, no, what I'm saying is that 20 parties have been sanctioned by courts even though they 21 have a pending motion, pending protective order, for 22 failure to appear at a deposition. There are cases to 23 that effect. 24 MR. BRONZE: Your Honor, well, none of the 25 cases cited by --

1 THE COURT: Well, it doesn't matter what they 2 cite, it's what the case law on the subject is. 3 MR. BRONZE: Your Honor, then I will have to 4 see the --5 THE COURT: I was just giving you a cite, 186 FRD. 6 7 MR. BRONZE: Well, Your Honor, in reliance 8 on the Rule 26(c), reading it from the face of the 9 statute --10 THE COURT: Well, these courts also relied on 11 Rule 26(c) and Rule 37 to say that a party may be 12 sanctioned, even though you have a pending protective order, because it's discretionary with the court to 13 14 excuse, not mandatory. 15 MR. BRONZE: Well, I don't think -- I think 16 you've looked at the cases that -- this is not I have 17 been willful, you have relied on what the statute says, 18 I have cited case law that support our position. Wе 19 didn't know about the order until at least as it 20 relates to the first deponent --21 THE COURT: But it seems to me that your 22 position is that every time you have a pending 23 protective order, you're not subject to sanction. 24 MR. BRONZE: Certain cases that I have read 25 that, that is correct, that so long -- I mean, the

1 cases cited by the defendant -- by the plaintiffs in 2 this case --3 THE COURT: But what I'm saying is that there 4 are other cases that say otherwise. MR. BRONZE: I haven't found the authority, 5 and to the extent the Court believes that is the case, 6 7 then I'll take what the Court --8 THE COURT: Like I said, 186 FRD, D.DC 7, it's 9 a July 10, 1988 case, and it's Alexander versus the 10 FBI. 11 MR. BRONZE: Well, we believe our actions have 12 been in good faith in this case. In regards to the 13 Underwood, we had filed a motion to reconsider --14 THE COURT: But in all pf these instances, 15 though, Mr. Bronze, you've already had an order that 16 has denied the protective order. So how can it be in 17 good faith not to appear at the deposition on May 5th 18 when your motion for the protective order has been 19 denied? 2.0 MR. BRONZE: Yes, but we have asked the Court 21 to reconsider the motion, which is --22 THE COURT: After it has been denied? 23 MR. BRONZE: Yes. 24 THE COURT: Is counsel really serious that 25 after a judge has denied your motion for a protective

1 order, that it would reconsider that decision when you 2 have a deposition that's pending? 3 MR. BRONZE: Your Honor, a motion for reconsideration where the Court has not considered 4 5 factual arguments based on the local rules, the Court 6 can -- it's valid under the local rules, it's valid 7 under Ninth Circuit precedence that the court can 8 reconsider. 9 THE COURT: So if you're going to take a 10 deposition in the future and you set it for June 11th, 11 all Ms. Arriola has to do is file a motion for a 12 protective order on June 10th and tell her parties "do not appear because I have a motion for protective order 13 14 pending", that's the rule that you suggest, and I don't 15 think it's a good rule. 16 MR. BRONZE: Your Honor, to the extent that 17 it is not frivolous, you cannot just file a Rule 26; 18 I mean, we have asserted grounds of why we believe the 19 motion should have been stayed and why it --20 THE COURT: But the judge has already denied 21 it. 22 MR. BRONZE: The judge may have denied it,

but we have the right to ask the judge to reconsider

his decision. Your Honor, I've been before you --

THE COURT: And if he denies that

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reconsideration, are you going to file a third motion for reconsideration?

MR. BRONZE: Of course, you're only allowed one time to file a motion for reconsideration.

Your Honor, when you were in the Superior

Court, I have filed motion for reconsideration before

you and you have undertaken it and actually reversed

yourself in this -- in the GEDA case versus Tommmy

Tanaka on certain counts regarding --

motion to attend a deposition. I may have reconsidered on a motion to attend a deposition. I may have reconsidered on substantive grounds, on legal issues, finding that your memorandum has enlightened me, enlightened me to the point that I had erred in my previous ruling. But not on -- but not on failure to attend a deposition, really. I mean, it doesn't seem to me right that the other party would be there attending, having their court reporter there, having people there, and then the only justification you have is that, oh, I have a pending motion, even though it's the prior motion for protective order has been denied.

MR. BRONZE: And that's the other point,
Your Honor. We advised counsel that we will not be
appearing, so any excuse about that they incurred
expenses is completely frivolous. We sent a letter,

it's attached to Exhibit 4 to my declaration, that on May 4th, the deposition for Underwood which we're discussing was supposed to be May 5th. At 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon I faxed a letter to plaintiff's counsel that I will not be appearing on the May 5th. So if she undertakes to have the court reporter there, knowing that we're not going to show up, we should not be sanctioned for that.

THE COURT: Well, yes, because you haven't gotten an order from the Court that says your motion has been granted, that's why you should be sanctioned.

MR. BRONZE: Well, if that's the Court's position, then, you know, we'll --

THE COURT: That's the position that we have to take for every litigant, because I don't want

Ms. Arriola on the eve of your deposition to run to the court and file a protective order, and nothing is done with that protective order, she's going to tell her client not to come to your deposition. I'm not going to tolerate that.

MR. BRONZE: To the extent that they have no grounds to do it. I mean, we had grounds.

THE COURT: No, no, she has grounds. Unless
I tell you that your protective motion is granted, then
that's, as far as I'm concerned, that's the only time

you're going to get sanctioned.

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MR. BRONZE: Well, obviously, Your Honor, there's differing authority on this, and so that's maybe what the position is. There's differing authority. There's authority supporting your position, and there's authority supporting our position, and if the court --

THE COURT: But, you know, doesn't it seem that maybe what Ms. Arriola is saying is true here, that you've not really been diligent in discovery?

MR. BRONZE: That is absolutely not true.

THE COURT: That you're preventing discovery?

MR. BRONZE: We are not preventing discovery.

We have -- The substance of this motion was we didn't want to have to -- Your Honor, we're arguing this motion, the motion to reconsider the stay, more than a month later. We were facing a June 7th discovery cut-off, or June 8 discovery cut-off, being forced to take depositions, again going back, and we've gone over this issue about the amended complaint, where we're essentially doing a deposition by ambush with potentially no rider under the federal rules that I know of to then have to re-depose the witness.

And that was the basis of filing our motion for protective order. And it was not a willful -- it

was not, you know, like these cases cited where these people agreed to show at their deposition, they never filed anything with the court. And that is not the case here, I don't think there's contumacious behavior on our part. We relied on what case law I have. I mean, obviously, there's differing authorities over this issue. And I don't think that's sufficient to -- for the Court to give sanctions.

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that's the date.

And to the extent we'll make Mr. Underwood -but the problem we have, Your Honor, is the Court -- we
ask the court to, if they're going to issue an order,
Mr. Underwood --

THE COURT: But the problem is, you're also asking that the deposition cannot take place earlier than 30 days from the court's order, and that's further delaying discovery.

MR. BRONZE: Your Honor, bottom line is we're asking that we are given an opportunity to discuss everybody's schedule and make -- if the court says you make him available in three weeks, then we have to say, okay, we'll find everybody's schedule. The problem with

Ms. Arriola is she just imposes a date, and whether

I have a conflict or somebody else, it doesn't matter,

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1 Do you have a conflict in ten THE COURT: 2 days? 3 MR. BRONZE: I don't know; I'll have to check 4 my -- I don't know. 5 THE COURT: Could you check it, please? 6 MR. BRONZE: I will check. And I will need 7 to check Mr. Underwood's schedule also, or whoever the 8 deponent is; I'm not sure who the Court is talking 9 about. 10 That's all, Your Honor. 11 THE COURT: Ms. Arriola? 12 MS. ARRIOLA: You know, Your Honor, again, 13 I am just really aggravated by some of the 14 representations that are made here. Mr. Bronze had to 15 leave in April off island; he told me because he had to 16 care for an ailing parent. For that reason I did not schedule any depositions for April in order to 17 18 accommodate his personal schedule. 19 I then wrote to him and said, can you produce 20 your clients for deposition on April 28th? He said no, he couldn't; his clients were more available or it was 21 22 more convenient for them for me to take their 23 depositions on May 3rd and May 5th. That's why I 24 scheduled their deposition on that time, and that's 25 what we agreed to. And, you know, Your Honor, that's

in a declaration that I filed in opposition to the first motion to stay all depositions that they filed way back when in March. But it irritates me to no end that Mr. Bronze is making all these statements that, you know, they have been, you know, so accommodating and they have, you know, been willing to produce their clients; that is just not the case.

And, Your Honor, in terms of, you know, sanctions, the facts are as they are, and they are this. Number one: They agreed to produce their clients, they never did; number two, they had five pending motions to stay depositions, one filed right after another, instead of conducting discovery, clearly aimed to making it more expensive for us to litigate this case, but also clearly aimed to not take their clients' depositions when we had a chance to.

And then as Your Honor noted, there were two court orders that specifically said, you know, we're denying your motion for a protective order in terms of staying the depositions. So what we had on the record on May 3rd and May 5th was, we had two court orders basically stating the depositions are going forward; the scheduling order is intact as it stands. All of those facts lead us to believe that sanctions should be imposed here.

And, Your Honor, when Mr. Bronze says, you know, I gave her enough adequate notice, she didn't have to have the court reporter there; Your Honor, every single case that I have read says if you have a deposition that's noticed and that's scheduled, you bring the court reporter and you wait for the witness to show up, and you make a record of what happened at that deposition, whether they failed to show up or they didn't fail to show up. And regardless of whether Mr. Bronze, you know, sent me letters notifying me that the clients were not -- his clients were not going to come, I was going to make that record, because in my understanding of the rules and the cases, that's what you're required to do.

So, we would ask that Your Honor schedule these depositions as soon as possible, grant our motion to compel, and grant the motion for sanctions.

Thank you.

THE COURT: All right. You know, Mr. Bronze, I don't think 30 days really is reasonable in light of the fact that these depositions did not take place on May 3rd and 5th. I think any notice to take a deposition given within ten days is reasonable, really. That's why I asked you what your schedule would be like within ten days. Is that something you could --

1 MR. BRONZE: Your Honor, I could check my 2 schedule, and I need to check the two deponents' 3 schedule, and I can contact your law clerk and tell 4 her. 5 THE COURT: You know, the only time I'm going 6 to excuse them from not attending is if they have 7 planned trips off island. 8 MR. BRONZE: I don't know, Your Honor. 9 THE COURT: But otherwise, if they're here, 10 they must attend the deposition, really. 11 MR. BRONZE: I have no problem in regards to 12 that, Your Honor. I will check with them, and if I 13 have a scheduled conflict, then I will let the Court 14 know. 15 THE COURT: Let Ms. Arriola know so that it 16 can be scheduled on or about ten days. All right? 17 MR. BRONZE: Your Honor, is that from today 18 or --19 THE COURT: Well, it should start from today, 20 because we've already lost 30 days from May 3rd, 30 21 days in terms of discovery time. So check your 22 schedule, and if you have a court case on a certain 23 day, I'm sure Ms. Arriola really can adjust dates or 24 times to accommodate your court schedule. 25 But, let's have the deposition take place ten

days from today, on or about; only to be rescheduled if you have a scheduling conflict. All right? And also if, let's say you talk to the deponents and they tell you that one is in Alaska, or one is on a vacation right now and they're not going to be back for another two weeks, then of course you'll need to schedule it when they come back.

Also, if they have a planned trip, you know — because this is the summer months, people are traveling, I don't know whether that's the case — let Ms. Arriola know and maybe you can work out something convenient in terms of when they're going to be coming back. Maybe you can speed up the deposition really, if they're going to be leaving within five days, maybe you might want to take the deposition in four days, especially if their vacation is going to be 30 days. I don't want to disrupt a vacation that's planned, especially if it's with the family. So those are matters to take into consideration in terms of the deposition. But let's just say ten days from today to be rescheduled, if there are conflicts. All right?

Is that a problem, Ms. Arriola?

MS. ARRIOLA: That's not a problem, Your

Honor. I appreciate it.

THE COURT: All right. So for both

individuals, or do you want another individual on a different date?

MS. ARRIOLA: Your Honor, I anticipate that these depositions will take all day, and so they will probably be two days, but one day after another is fine, or with a day in between is fine.

THE COURT: All right. We can do it the same way you noticed previously so there's a gap in between. So ten days from today for either one of them, and then 12 days from today for the other one.

MR. BRONZE: 12 days, Your Honor?

THE COURT: 12 days from today for the other one.

And as for the motion for sanction, really, I'm going to incorporate that in I guess a decision that will be coming forth from the Court. I've reviewed some cases prior to this hearing, and it does discuss instances in which sanctions have been imposed against a party even though they had a pending motion for protective order at the time of the scheduled deposition. So I want to revisit those cases and look at them again one more time for what they may be worth, and incorporating it in a written decision. So I'll have this decision out as soon as possible so we know where we stand in terms of the scheduling order, the

1 anticipated trial date, and whether or not the Court 2 will grant sanctions in this matter. 3 Any other matters that we need to take up? 4 One of our problems here, really, is that we 5 can hear certain matters for certain issues but we 6 can't for others; so it's like having a dual forum in 7 terms of disposing of all of these issues, which 8 doesn't make it too accommodating, really, you know, 9 for moving cases forward, because sometimes we don't 10 know what's happening here when someone is hearing 11 another matter. 12 So, with that in mind, let me thank you for 13 being here this morning, and for being here for the 14 past hour and a half. Thank you very much counsel. 15 Unless there are any other matters? 16 MR. BRONZE: Thank you. No, Your Honor. 17 MS. ARRIOLA: Nothing further, Your Honor. 18 THE COURT: Thank you very much. 19 (Proceedings concluded at 11:31 a.m.) 20 21 22 23 24 25

1	CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
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3	CITY OF AGANA )
4	) ss. TERRITORY OF GUAM )
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6	I, Wanda M. Miles, Official Court Reporter
7	of the District Court of Guam, do hereby certify the
8	foregoing pages 1-70, inclusive, to be a true and
9	correct transcript of the shorthand notes taken by me
10	of the within-entitled proceedings, at the date and
11	time therein set forth.
12	Dated this 15th day of June, 2004.
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14	Wandy M. Wiles
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